

December 24, 2023



Daily Reflections

OVERSHADOWED BY GOD

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

LUKE 1:35

Reflection

Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Advent 2023. While generally 4 weeks of Advent are each seven days long, this year, today is all the time we have left to finish getting ready for God to love us into life through the birth of Jesus. Christmas Day is tomorrow. Time is short! Let's not let the day slip away unaware.

It is interesting that the Church turns again to the beginning of Luke's Gospel to remind us of Mary's courageous encounter with God, who now becomes God

with us in the incarnation of the Son.

Perhaps the abrupt conclusion of Advent that draws us into the Mary's fiat, her "Yes!" to Divine encounter, is one for us to ponder as well. Mary's "Yes" was not only for one moment. Her affirmation of God's overshadowing was for the totality of her life.

Mary's story can be our own story as well. Each time I/we ponder our close encounters with God over our lifetime, it makes space for the embracing of sacred ties within and throughout my/our life. Perhaps today, the fourth Sunday of Advent, is the day of God's visitation and personal encounter with me, with you. It is never too late in the season for a blessed encounter that marks the beginning of new life, refreshed commitment, and an awakening of God's indwelling presence that readies me for Christmas birthing of Christ into our world. Be ready to rejoice and know more intimately God's companioning presence for the rest of our lives.



Clouds and Light
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- When has God's presence overwhelmed me? How did I respond?

- Lately, what are my questions as I tried to understand and respond to God's invitation?
 - What changes must I make to say "yes" and increase Christ's life in me?
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For Prayer

*Loving God,
you prepared the Virgin Mary to be the worthy mother of your Son.
Prepare me as well during this Advent day
to reflect your Son in our world.
Help me to live in your presence moment by moment each day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

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